

1998 Hall of Fame Inductee

Erwin M. Tiffany

The author of the FFA creed, Erwin M. Tiffany, was born on a farm near the village of Lyndon, Kansas, in 1883. Seven generations of his forefathers in America were farmers. In 1902, he graduated from high school and then worked for a year on the family farm before continuing his education. He completed his B.S. degree in classics in 1908, then traveled to Oregon and served as a high school principal for 2 years.

Edward returned to Kansas to complete his degree in agriculture. After two years of extension work, he became head of the department of Rural Arts at Texas State College in Denton, Texas. He completed his Masters in agricultural education at UW-Madison in 1920 and then joined the faculty of the College of Agriculture at the University. Mr. Tiffany traveled Wisconsin extensively to help ag teachers in this formative period of their discipline

In 1928, when preparing an exhibit for the national convention of FFA, he wrote a statement of ideals for the FFA, which was rooted in his experience growing up on the farm in Kansas, deepened by his studies of the classics, and broadened through his work with thousands of Wisconsin farmers. He used it as part of the 1928 exhibit. It was adopted by the National FFA as their creed at the third convention in 1930. He died in 1949 at the age of sixty four.